staff of Ahmedabad Passport Office in various grades is as under:

Post	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength
Group 'A'	4	2
Group 'B'	3	4
Group 'C'	66	59
Group 'D'	11	8

One Group 'A' officer (a PRO) is under orders of transfer and is likely to join at Ahmedabad by end of March, 1988.

One extra Superintendent in Group 'B' has been posted against a vacancy in Group 'A'. Action to fill up the vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts is in hand.

(c) The passport applications pending for more than 3 months are: 2,756. These cases are 23.8 per cent of the total applications which are pending in Passport Office, Ahmedabad.

(d) No Sir.

Investment in North Eastern Region

305. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the North Eastern region is lagging behind by 30 per cent as compared with the rest of the country in terms of investment;

(b) what corrective measures are being taken to bring North Eastern region at par and whether there is any proposal to increase central sector investment and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present capacity and estimated potentiality of resources like oil and natural gas and hydel power and whether the same are being exploited fully in North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) In terms of investments being made by the country, the North Eastern region (NE) is not lagging behind the rest of the country. All the seven States of the NE are treated as special category States and are given special central assistance which also covers their non-plan gap. Approved plan allocation in terms of per capita for the States of NE including for the North Eastern Council (NEC) are placed at Statement I (*See* below). It shows that the plan investment per capita in favour of NE is much higher as compared to the average per capita allocation for the rest of the country. The statement showing central plan expenditure for the Sixth Plan for various States of the country is given as Statement-II (*See* below). It will be seen that the 7th Plan approved allocation for NE (including NEC) was 6.28 per cent of the all India 7th Plan allocation (States and UTs); and the central sixth plan expenditure was 4.67 per cent (excluding the unallocated portion) as against 3.88 per cent of country's population that lives in NE (1981 census). The per capita 7th Plan allocation (1981 census) for NE(including NEC) was Rs. 1934 as compared to Rs. 1165 for the country (excluding NE region).

Some of the other special measures taekn to bring about faster economic growth in the NE includes the following- (i) NE region states are treated as special category states for central assistance; (ii) The pattern of central assistance for the NE states including hill areas of Assam

and excluding Assam State, is 90 per cent of grant and 10 per cent loan as against 30 per cent grant and 70 per cent loan for the general category States of the country; (iii) much higher rate of central assistance is allocated to the NE States as compared to the general category States; (iv) a number of administrative measures have also been taken like creation of North Eastern Council; Committee of Ministers for Economic Development for NE region; Committee of Secretaries to assist the Committee of Ministers for looking after the development requirements of the NE region.

(c) The installed hydro power generating capacity as on 31.7.1987 in NE was 317.93 MW. As per the available latest assessment studies undertaken by Central Electricity Authority, the total hydro power potential in NE region is 167 billion units. A number of hydro power electric projects are under construction in the NE region both under State sector as well as central sector. A number of projects are at different stages of investigation.

The balance recoverable reserves of oil are estimated at 101.8 million tonnes. During 1986-87, 5.3 million tonnes (approx.) of oil was produced. The recoverable natural gas reserve was estimated (January 1985) at 87.67 billion cubic meters. Production of natural gas during 1986-87 was 2.18 million cubic meters.

Statement.I

Seventh Plan Outlay & Per Capita Outlay of North Eastern States

States	Outlay (Rs.Crores)	Per Capita (Rs.)
1. Assam	2100.00	1055
2. Manipur	430.00	3026
3. Meghalaya	440.00	3293
4. Nagaland	400.00	5161
5. Tripura	440.00	2143
6. Arunachal Pradesh	400 00	6329
7. Mizoram	26000	5263
TOTAL NORTH EASTERN STATES	4470.00	1680
NEC	675.00	
TOTAL	5145.00	1934
ALL INDIA	81865.99	1195
ALL INDIA (Excluding NE States & NEC)	76720.29	1165

NOTE : I. Population Estimates used 1981.

2. Excluding special central assistance for (a) Hill areas, (b) for ST (c) SC and (d) for jhum.

Statement—II

State-wise distribution of Central Plan Expenditure and its per capita Expenditure during Sixth Five Year Plan-(1980-85)

States/U.T.'s	Central Plan Expenditure		Per Capita Expenditure(Rs.
	Amount (Rs. Crores)	Percentage	
1. Andhra Pradesh	5404 57	9 37	1010 2
2. Assam	2190 07	3 80	1100.5
3. Bihar	4162 40	7.22	595.5
4. Gujarat	3130.33	5.43	918.0
5. Haryana	618.63	1.07	479.6
6. Himachal pradesh	368 46	0.64	856.9
7. Jammu & Kashmir	501.58	0.87	836.0
8. Karnataka	1999.47	3.47	538.9
9. Kerala	1346 22	2.22	572.9
10. Madhya Pradesh	4710.56	8.17	902.4
11. Maharashtra	4901.16	8.50	780.4
12. Manipur	125 20	0.22	894.3
13. Meghalaya	71.01	0.12	564.2
14. Nagaland	87.92	0.15	1099.0
15. Orissa	2855.08	4.95	1081.5
16. Punjab	656.67	1.14	380.9
17. Rajasthan	1675.35	2.91	488.4
18. Sikkim	34.47	0 06	1149.0
19. Tamilnadu	3167 09	5 49	654.4
20. Tripura	135.93	0 23	647.3
21. Uttar Pradesh	4302.20	7 46	388 0
22. West Bengal	3480.04	6.04	637 4
TOTAL STATES	45924.41	79.64	680 0

States/U.T.'s	Central Plan Expenditure		Per Capita Expenditure
	Amount (Rs. in Crores)	Percentage	(Rs.)
1. Andaman & Nicobar	30.21	0.05	1610.5
2. Arunachal Pradesh	50.69	0.09	844.8
3. Chandigarh	52.86	0.09	1321.5
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.65	0.01	365.0
5. Delhi	1170.95	2.03	1888.6
6. Goa, Daman & Diu	162.04	0 28	1473.1
7. Lakshadweep	4.04	0.01	1010.0
8. Mizoram	30.13	0.05	602.6
9. Pondicherry	30.63	0.05	510.0
TOTAL U.T.'s	1535.20	2.66	1582.7
UNALLOCATED TOTAL STATES	10204 26	17.70	
U.T.'s	**57663.87**	**100.000**	**841.6**

NOTES (i) The unallocated amount (Rs. 10204 crores) includes offshore and other investment of Rs. 5500 crores in the Petroleum Sector.

(ii) The total Central Plan Expenditure during the Sixth Plan was Rs. 57800 crores. The break-up available in the statement is (including the unallocated portion) for Rs. 57664 crores.

(iii) As Central Plan investment is not planned or accounted Statewise, some assumptions have been made in attempting such a break-up. While they seem to be best possible assumption to base such an exercise, as, their validity is certainly of a limited nature. Some examples are given below:—

(a) Railway investments on new-lines, guage conversions and electrification have been broken up Statewise based on approximate length completed in each State.

(b) The remaining 80 per cent of Railways Plan has been allocated to different States on the basis of route kilometers falling in each State.

(iii) Providing Special Central Assistance for the development of backward areas in the States such as, hill areas, desert areas, drought prone areas and also areas having concentration of tribal population.

(iv) Providing special incentives in the form of investment subsidy and concessional finance for accelerating the industrial development of the industrially backward regions in the States; and

(v) While making Statewise allocation of resources under the poverty alleviation programme, more emphasis is given to the incidence of poverty during the Seventh Plan as compared to that in Sixth Plan. Naturally, the States with higher poverty ratio will get higher allocations of funds for these programmes.